

MRS. SPENCER TELLS OF SON'S BRUTAL TREATMENT

Says Father Subjected Boy to Extremely Severe Punishment—Insanity in Family.

TWO ATTEMPTS AT SUICIDE

Other Witnesses at Springfield Murder Trial Tell of Defendant's Queer Actions—Failed in Most of Studies.

Springfield, Mass., Nov. 16.—Bertram G. Spencer, now on trial for his life accused of the murder of Miss Martha B. Blackstone, was brutally treated by his own father from his early childhood, according to the testimony of Mrs. W. L. L. Spencer, when she took the witness stand today on behalf of her son. Without hesitation and with no display of emotion the mother told in great detail of numerous occasions on which her husband had punished young Bertram with extreme severity. That a certain amount of punishment was deserved by the boy on each of these occasions was admitted by the witness on cross-examination, as well as the fact that her husband is now a Sunday school superintendent in Lebanon, Conn. The treatment accorded by his father made Bertram very nervous, Mrs. Spencer said, and ever since from a particularly severe beating over the head with the butt of a heavy whip in the hands of his father the boy had complained of pains in the head.

Other forms of punishment which Spencer's mother testified had a bad effect on his nerves were the tying of the lad on a chopping block and telling him his head would be cut off, and binding him to a tree in the woods and saying that the wolves would eat him.

Mrs. Spencer said that Bertram tried to commit suicide by drowning and at another time by taking poison. Often, she said, her son had attacks of frenzy, frothing at the mouth and making strange sounds in his throat, while his eyes looked like those of a wild animal.

History was related by Mrs. Spencer in testifying that many of her own relatives and those of her husband had been insane.

Tell of Attacks by Spencer.

After Mrs. Spencer left the stand nearly a dozen witnesses were examined. Practically all of them told of outbursts of rage on Spencer's part when he was at home, at various places in Connecticut or at the Mount Hermon School for boys. One of these witnesses described Spencer's look as "wild and indifferent," and others told of threats of injury to other persons and actual attacks on them by Spencer when he was angry. Miss Mary J. Miller, secretary of the Mount Hermon School, read report cards showing that Spencer failed in most of his studies.

An incident to which Mrs. Spencer had alluded in her testimony was described by Benjamin F. Carpenter, a Lebanon, Conn., farmer. He said that when he and Spencer were digging a trench Spencer's father told them to work faster. Spencer became angry and went at his father with a shovel, which witness got away from him. Spencer then ran into the house. The witness said Spencer often had a vacant stare and appeared to hear voices when no one was speaking.

A relative of the defendant, Charles A. Gager, of Norwich, Conn., testified to a quarrel in which Bertram Spencer was involved at a dance at Norwich several years ago, when Spencer tried to shoot a man, but was prevented from pulling the trigger of his revolver.

A halfbrother of Spencer's father, William K. Spencer, of Middletown, Conn., corroborated Mrs. Spencer's testimony that Spencer's grandfather died in an insane asylum and that various other of his relatives had been insane. Similar testimony was given by Samuel N. Hyde, of Franklin, Conn.

One physician was called to Dr. Ed. W. L. Danielson, of Lebanon, Conn., but he was not permitted to testify as to Spencer's mental condition, on the ground that when he knew Spencer he was neither the family physician nor an expert in mental diseases. He testified to treating the young man for laudanum poisoning, and on cross-examination told of having signed a certificate in connection with Spencer's entrance to the Mount Hermon School, in which he wrote the word "insane" in response to the printed question as to whether the boy was suffering from any nervous disease. He explained on the stand that he was referring to nervous diseases he had no thought of insanity.

Throughout the day's proceedings the defendant, in contrast to his violence of yesterday, was thoroughly self-controlled.

Mrs. Spencer's Testimony.

Spencer's mother was the first witness for the defense. She testified that Bertram was born at Lebanon, Conn., June 9, 1881. When Bertram was less than a year old, the witness said, his father punished him with a silver knife at the table one day, and from that time the child began to manifest signs of nervousness. One time when the child was between three and four years old his father whipped him for some small breach of discipline at church. During the punishment the child fell on his father's hands and struck his head against the stove, causing a bad injury at the base of the skull.

At the age of five years, the witness said, Bertram seemed unable to memorize a short prayer, and his father, believing the boy to be stubborn, took him into the woodshed, tied his hands, laid him across the chopping block, and told him he was going to cut his head off.

At another time, Mrs. Spencer said, her husband took Bertram, then thirteen years old, into Mack's Woods, Lebanon, for some breach of discipline, tied him to a tree and drove away, telling the boy that the wolves would eat him. An hour later the father returned, the child and brought him home. At another time, when the boy was nine years old, Mr. Spencer whipped him for stealing a knife, breaking the butt of a heavy whip over the boy's head. Ever since that time, Mrs. Spencer said, her son had frequently complained of his head.

She said that when Bertram was four years old he took him to Charleston, where he enlisted in the navy, but a few weeks later he returned home. A burning gun caused bad injuries to his head when he was sixteen, his mother said.

"Aimed Revolver at Father."

In the same year Bertram left home he returned one evening for his clothes, and his mother persuaded him to remain for the night. When the father came home and learned that Bertram was in the house he took a lantern, rushed upstairs to the boy's room and jumped on Bertram as he lay asleep. Bertram grabbed a revolver from under his pillow and aimed it at his father, but the weapon was rusty and could not be discharged. The boy then ran down stairs and out of the house, his father pursuing him and firing five revolver shots at him as he disappeared in the darkness. Later he lived at the home of Calvin Briggs, in Norwich, Conn. In Norwich, he tried to kill himself by jumping from a bridge and once was found on the street in a dazed condition. Later Bertram went to Portland, Me., New Haven and Hartford.

Bertram had carried a revolver. Mrs. Spencer testified, ever since he had been

BANKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES LEAVING THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STATION FOR THE NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION.



attacked by a highwayman and left lying by the roadside. On another occasion, when he was held up, Bertram fired two shots at his assailant, but the shots did not take effect.

An attempt of the defendant to commit suicide by taking laudanum when he was nineteen years old was described by the witness, who said that her son told her afterward that he was tired of life and that he had had a love affair.

Narrow Escape from Death.

Mrs. Spencer identified a letter written by C. H. Tilley, of Providence, to her on December 20, 1898. The District Attorney objected to the admission of the letter, but the court ruled it competent inasmuch as the writer is dead and the statement of a deceased person. In the letter Mr. Tilley said that Bertram, who was at that time living with the writer, had been badly cut in the wrist during a friendly boxing bout. An artery had been severed and he had had a narrow escape from death. The letter urged Mr. Spencer to take Bertram back home and forgive him, and it was stated that Bertram was in poor health.

Soon afterward Bertram enlisted in the navy, but served only eight months. The witness then related several incidents to show that her son was subject to fits of frenzy, when he would froth at the mouth, make a peculiar guttural noise and when his eyes looked like "the eyes of a wild animal," as she described them.

From 1899 to 1902, Bertram was in California, and his mother was unable to testify regarding his condition at that time. He came to Springfield in 1902, Mrs. Spencer declared, and secured employment as conductor on a trolley car.

Mrs. Spencer said that she had tried twice to end her life by poison, once in 1894 and again in 1895. She then gave a long list of relatives and ancestors on both sides of her son's family who had been insane.

CURE FOR BLOOD TUMOR

Operation Made Possible by Freezing the Growth.

(By Telegram to The Tribune.)

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—Dr. Ralph Bernstein, dermatologist of Hahnemann College, today gave a demonstration of his method of treating a birth blood tumor over the eye of an infant of six months, at the Children's Hospital.

The tumor was about the size of a walnut, bluish red in color and seemed to pulsate with the interstices of blood vessels of the brain. The conditions are considered a surgeon's knife owing to the close relations with the large blood vessels and the intense hemorrhage which follows the cut.

Dr. Bernstein's method was to apply a surgically modified carbon dioxide to the growth for several minutes, causing an intense freezing of various parts of the tumor and producing various blood vessels, which in other words, means the freezing of the blood, thus cutting off the freezing of the tumor, and in this way causing its gradual absorption, leaving in its place a smooth, scarless area with a normal skin covering.

The temperature of the freezing substance which Dr. Bernstein used was about 129 degrees below zero. The operation, Dr. Bernstein explained, was painless and will immediately relieve the infant of an unsightly tumor which would gradually extend over the eye and lower portion of the face.

"JACK THE HUGGER" INSANE

Attacked Score of Girls Before He Was Caught.

Paterson, N. J., Nov. 16 (Special).—Albert Slicker, twenty-one years old, a member of a prominent family in Passaic and assistant superintendent in a large woolen mill, has a bad nature, according to medical testimony offered in the Quarter Sessions Court today, when he was arraigned on charges of attacking more than a score of young women at various times. Judge Scott adjourned Slicker insane. He was committed to the asylum at Morris Plains.

For months the police of Passaic were mystified by the attacks on young women, and the assailant became known as "Jack the Hugger." His custom was to hide behind trees or telegraph poles, hug young women who appeared when the coast was clear and then make his escape. He was identified a few nights ago after attacking Miss Rose Silverstein, daughter of Jacob Silverstein, a produce merchant.

Slicker at first denied he was the mysterious "Jack the Hugger," but later confessed. "I don't know why I did all this," he said, "but when a good looking young woman came along a strange feeling came over me and I just couldn't resist hugging her."

WILSON AT CHILDHOOD HOME.

Stanton, Va., Nov. 16.—Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, spent today here viewing the scenes of his childhood and renewing boyhood acquaintances. He was serenaded this afternoon and held a reception at his hotel.

TYPHOID IN ORANGE COUNTY.

(By Telegram to The Tribune.)

Newburg, N. Y., Nov. 16.—Typhoid fever is more or less prevalent in Orange County. There are fifteen cases at Goshen. All of these are among persons who attended a friend's banquet there. The latest victim is W. H. Brewster, who is about one hundred cases elsewhere in the county. Physicians are seeking the origin of the disease.

INTERPRETER BECOMES LAWYER.

Edward J. Rosenthal, for many years an interpreter in the Court of General Sessions, was admitted to the bar of New York County yesterday. Mr. Rosenthal studied at night sessions of the law school of Fordham University. He will not quit his present job right away.

PRaise FOR KOENIG'S WORK

County Committee Adopts Resolution at Monthly Meeting.

Election Echoes Around

Action Taken on New Primary and Levy Laws—Speakership Question Discussed.

Echoes of the election were heard at the monthly meeting of the Republican County Committee last night. Senator Josiah T. Newcomb made a speech, in which he said the results had been somewhat mixed, but that those experienced in political affairs they foreboded the diminution of a Republican majority in the Assembly, the election of fifteen Republican Assemblymen and twenty fusion aldermen in the county.

"It was probably a matter of great regret," he said, "that it was not possible for us to conduct a campaign entirely with Republican candidates. But, putting aside this desire with great patriotism, we went into a fusion movement which has been of great benefit to this community. The great result that stands out is the election of a Republican majority in the Assembly, which destroys the power of Tammany Hall in the Legislature, the greatest menace that the state has known in many years."

The following resolution, offered by Senator Newcomb, was passed unanimously:

Resolved, That the people of the State of New York are to be congratulated on the result of the recent election, whereby the domination of Tammany Hall in the Legislature has been effectively destroyed.

For the honorable part performed by the Republican organization of New York County in securing this result thanks are due and are hereby tendered to the Hon. Samuel S. Koenig, president of this committee, the members of the executive committee, the election district captains and all the workers.

Under the new rules passed at the last meeting of the committee all resolutions offered must be read and then go to the committee on resolutions, to be reported out at the next meeting. But Rule 8 was suspended by a two-thirds vote on the Newcomb resolution, as it was in the case of two other resolutions.

Action on New Primary Law.

The first of the latter provided for the appointment of a committee of seven to consider and report such amendments as in its judgment it deems necessary to clarify and make workable the primary election law which went into effect on November 15.

The other resolution provided for a committee to consider and report on the committee amendments to the Levy election law.

The rules were not suspended, however, when former Assemblyman E. J. Raldris, of The Bronx, offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee of five to investigate the reason why "an intelligent effort" had not been made to bring about fusion on the candidate for municipal court justice in The Bronx.

The resolution went on to state that the Republican and Independence League organizations, which ran separate candidates, together polled more than 7,000 votes in excess of the vote of the Tammany candidate, who won. It was provided that not one of the executive members in The Bronx be on the committee.

When Mr. Raldris asked that Rule 8 be suspended so as to bring his resolution up for consideration, Collin H. Woodward moved that the resolution be laid on the table. Samuel S. Koenig, presiding, declared the Woodward motion carried and said he did not consider it necessary to have the rising vote that Mr. Raldris demanded.

Appoints Resolutions Committee.

The committee on resolutions, which is to have the first consideration of all resolutions in the future, as announced last night, is as follows: Gherardi Davis, of the 27th District; Senator Newcomb, of the 23d; Isidor Wasservogel, of the 22d; Douglas Mathewson, of the 5th; Ezra P. Prentice, of the 24th; Julius D. Tobias, of the 34th; William H. Douglas, of the 13th; J. Frank, of the 2d, and Samuel S. Strasbourger, of the 21st.

At the meeting of the executive committee in the afternoon a resolution by William Chivers, of the 25th District, commending the way in which President Koenig had planned and managed the campaign and renewing expressions of confidence in him, was passed unanimously.

Mr. Koenig made a long verbal report on the campaign and its results. He spoke at some length on the Speakership of the Assembly, saying it was a most important place and that it would be much better for the New York County Assemblymen to withhold any pledge to any candidate until it was decided who would be the best man for the Speakership.

To this view there was no dissenting opinion. Assemblyman Merritt, through his friends, is conducting a most active canvass for the Speakership here, however. One of the district leaders, who happens to be a Yale man, gave a letter yesterday from ex-Assemblyman Robert S. Conklin, another Yale man, saying that Merritt ought to be supported for the Speakership because he was a graduate of Yale.

Two Women Suffering from Disease Discovered in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—Two cases of leprosy were discovered in this city today. The first case, that of Mrs. Becky Schleifman, fifty-eight years old, was diagnosed by the physicians at the Pennsylvania Hospital. It is said that she is in the early stages of the disease. She has been in the country twenty years.

The other case, that of Mrs. Becky Foder, thirty-six years old, was reported by the physicians at the Orthopedic Hospital. She came to this country in 1906, and is said to be in an advanced stage of the disease. She is the mother of seven children, the eldest fifteen years old and the youngest nine months old.

Both women were removed to the isolation ward of the Philadelphia Hospital and a quarantine was established at their homes.

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CONFER WITH REA AGAIN

Mayor Not at Subway Meeting in Metropolitan Club.

OTHER OFFICIALS THERE

Trying to Get Interborough and City to Yield Few Points Each and Get Together.

There was another conference between Samuel Rea, vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and members of the Board of Estimate and of the Public Service Commission yesterday in regard to making some provision for additional transit facilities by the Pennsylvania Station. It was held late in the afternoon at the Metropolitan Club.

Mayor Gaynor was not present because he was not asked in time. At noon the Mayor went to luncheon with Surrogate Fowler and the two walked down Nassau street to Broad, down Broad to Beaver and over to William street, where they had luncheon. The Mayor paused a moment to watch the curb brokers in Broad street, and soon a wild rumor spread that Mayor Gaynor had gone down to Wall Street to confer with Mr. Rea and settle the subway situation.

The Mayor declared on his return that his trip had absolutely nothing to do with the subways. As a matter of fact, at the very time he was away Mr. Rea was trying to get in communication with him to get him to go to the Metropolitan Club conference.

When the Mayor heard of it later he thought it was too late for him to arrange matters so as to go.

The task of Mr. Rea has been to try to get the Interborough to yield a few points and the city to yield something, too, so that the Interborough could come in and take the lines laid down for it by the McAneny-Wilcox report.

It is not believed that he has had much success yet. President Shonts said yesterday: "Most of what I know is from the newspapers. Mr. Rea has been in to see me several times, and the Pennsylvania seems to feel that it has not good enough transit facilities."

Mr. Shonts was asked: "Is it your position that you will not make another proposition to the city, but that you are willing to consider any proposition that may be made to you?"

He replied: "You have hit it right."

Chairman Wilcox of the Public Service Commission said yesterday that his position had not changed. He believed it was to be regretted that the Interborough would not come in under the original plan, and that the solution made of the problem after its failure to come in was not all that could be desired.

"However," he said, "following the action of the Board of Estimate, I regarded the situation as practically settled, and the commission went ahead on that supposition."

Commissioner Wilcox said there had been no difference of opinion between the commission and the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company over the drafting of a contract for operation.

Commissioner Cram said earlier in the day that he understood the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company had drafted such a contract as would make it impossible for any one except itself to bid for the operation. He would oppose such a contract to the last, he declared.

Mr. Rea said after the conference that he did not believe the subway problem would be finally solved until the Pennsylvania Station and the West Side had a rapid transit system to all the boroughs, adding:

"Until then the city will not have discharged the important obligation it assumed in granting a franchise for the tunnel railroad and in having the station located on Seventh avenue, instead of at Broadway, where it might just as easily have been erected, but which would have been the city by greatly increasing the traffic congestion at Broadway and 25th street. The Pennsylvania and Long Island railroads are transportation systems accommodating large bodies of the citizens, and not only require, but, as large taxpayers of the city, have a right to expect that they will not be overlooked in the subway system now proposed, and their position in this regard has the strong support of New York City generally and of those sections of the country with which it has commercial relations."

OLD RESTAURANT IN TROUBLE

Firm Conducting Fortwengler's Asks To Be Adjudged Bankrupt.

A petition was filed in the United States District Court yesterday asking that the firm, but not its members individually, conducting the downtown restaurant known for thirty-seven years as Fortwengler's be adjudged bankrupt. It was signed by the three partners, Charles Achille, Marie Fortwengler and Adele Moran.

The restaurant was established at No. 3 to 7 William street in 1877 by Victor Fortwengler, and it remained there until 1909, when the building was torn down and it moved to Nos. 47 and 49 Beaver street. The founder had died ten years previously, and the widow carried on the business until 1907, when she died and was succeeded by her sons and daughters. At one time it was the favorite restaurant of Wall Street bankers and brokers and downtown commission merchants.

The liabilities were stated in the petition to be \$11,000, and the assets were placed at \$5,250, of which only \$15 was in cash.

MORE BANKERS LEAVE TOWN

Many Luxuries Enjoyed on Pennsylvania Special.

All the comforts of home, with the club and office added, will be enjoyed by the eighty bankers and their wives from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts, who left the Pennsylvania Station on a special train at 6:34 last night for the bankers' convention at New Orleans. Barbers, stenographers, maids, mannequins, valets, porters and waiters were among the servants provided for the convenience of the passengers.

A tourist agent accompanied them to see to their welfare, and a baggage-master to look after their luggage. The train consists of five sleeping cars and a club car. It is provided with reading and retiring rooms and a self-playing piano, on which almost any popular or classic air may be played.

A similar train left the Pennsylvania's Philadelphia station last night six minutes after the New York train passed through. The two "white sections" of the bankers' special trains by way of the New York Central lines will leave the Grand Central Terminal to-day at 9:30 a. m. There will be two hundred bankers and their friends on these two sections.

RUNAWAYS MEET FRIEND

Harlem Police Lieutenant Knew One of Them in Brooklyn.

Lieutenant Mulhauser, busy with the blotter, did not look up when he heard the door from below at night when he heard about 8 o'clock last night. When he finally glanced up he could see nobody in the room. But there was some one, for he heard shuffling feet